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RR RUEHGR
DE RUEHPO #0150 0691834
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 101834Z MAR 06
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8149
INFO RUCNCOM/EC CARICOM COLLECTIVE
RUEHAO/AMCONSUL CURACAO 0984
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 1524

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 000150

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR WHA/CAR LLUFTIG
DEPT FOR WHA/PD
DEPT FOR INL/LP NBOZZOLO, KBROWN
CARACAS FOR LEGATT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SNAR KCRM PGOV PREL NS

SUBJECT: INSCR RECEIVES MEDIA ATTENTION IN SURINAME UPON RELEASE

¶11. (U) The 2006 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report 2006 (INCSR) received prominent coverage from Suriname's leading newspaper De Ware Tijd upon its public release last week. The newspaper's headlines focused on the USG recommendation that Suriname devote more attention to dismantling large narcotics trafficking organizations and on the amount of customs revenues lost through corruption. The newspaper summarized the report's sections on GOS law enforcement efforts and U.S. policy initiatives. The articles did not include comments from Government of Suriname (GOS) officials or outside analysts.

¶12. (U) On March 4, De West newspaper in its popular Saturday editorial page questioned whether it is possible for the GOS to follow U.S. advice of pursuing large narcotics traffickers and dismantling their organizations. Even though the editorial agreed with the advice given in the INSCR, it stated that pursuing large narcotics dealers in Suriname is easier said than done. Despite the INSCR not making these claims, the paper went on to make serious, but unsubstantiated accusations, saying drugs and money laundering lines run through ministries and political parties, and large narcotics traffickers are often very influential persons in society and investigations into these people would stymied. It laments that the Surinamese economy has become dependent on the narcotics proceeds and goes as far as to say that the May 2005 elections were financed with 'dirty money.'

BARNES